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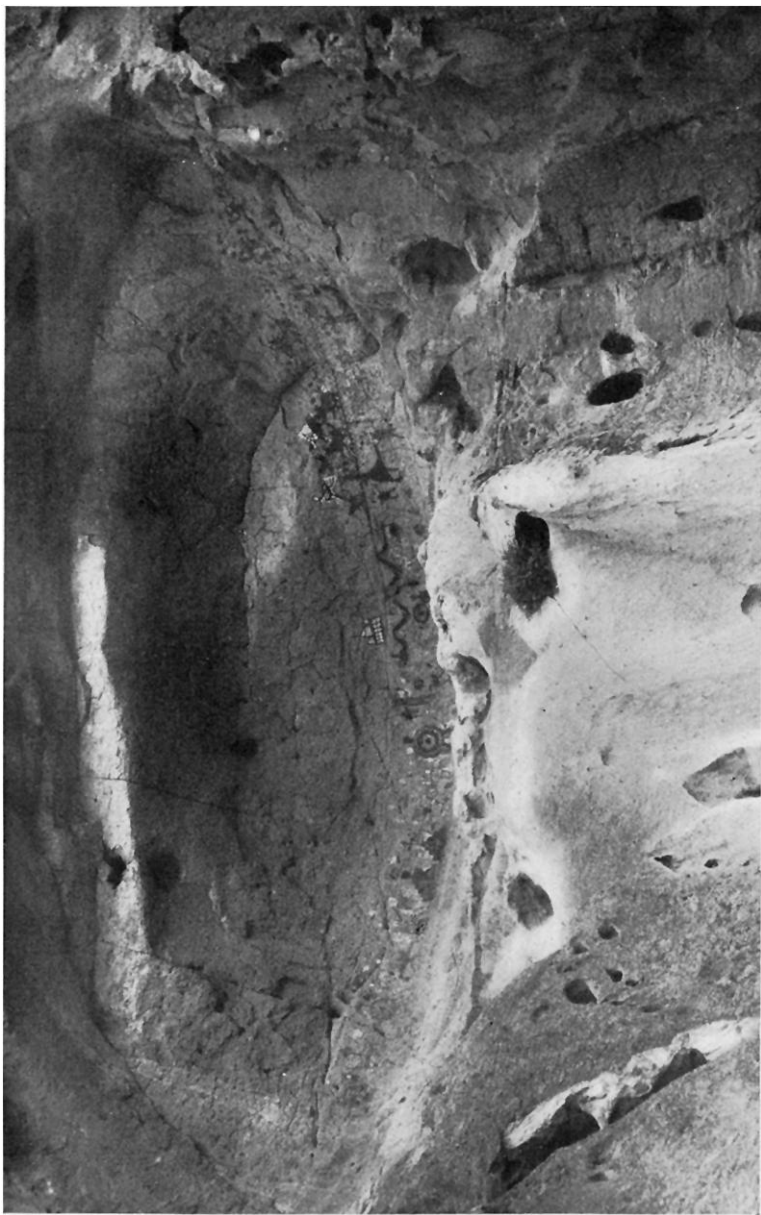
UNUSUAL AND UNKNOWN POINTS IN PAJARITO
PARK, NEW MEXICO

[PLATES VIII-IX]

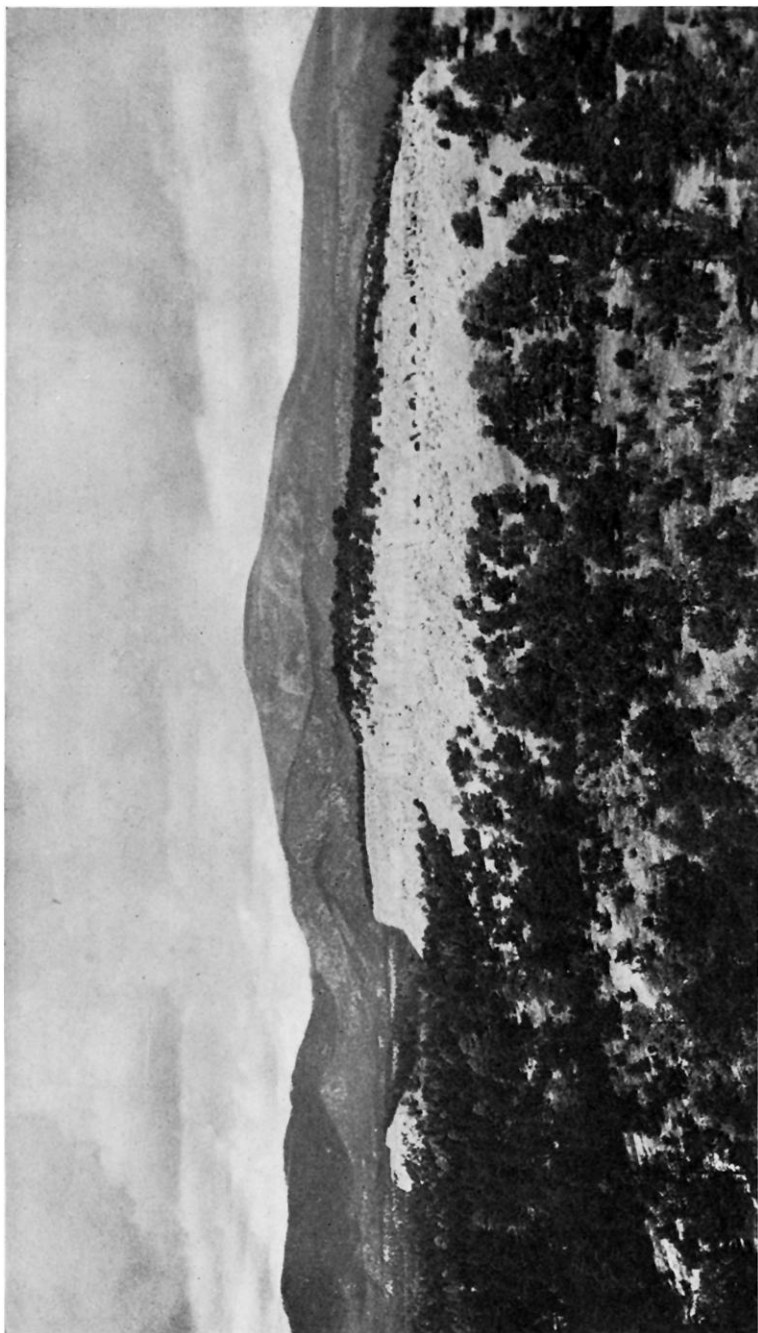
THE scores of honeycombed cliffs, hundreds of stone houses, and thousands of cliff dwellings in and near the Pajarito Park section of the Jemez Forest Reserve, afford a field that would give the most zealous archaeologist months of unbounded pleasure and valuable returns for the time spent there. It is not the ruins as an entirety, however, that give me the most pleasure, although my months of continual riding in the discharge of my Forest Service work, almost continually in sight of some ruin, have only made me more enthusiastic in regard to the region; but it is the unusual and unknown points which arouse in me the greatest continual interest.

The district south of the Frijoles Cañon is almost unknown, and Mr. Bandelier and other archaeologists who have been there have by no means exhausted the interest of this remote and not easily traversed region. There are large ruins and scores of points of interest that so far as I know have never even been mentioned.

In this region (which contains the famous painted cave, PLATE VIII, and stone lions) is situated a large white bear, carved from the fairly soft stone (Fig. 1). This animal is certainly as plainly seen as the stone lions and, except for the fact that the head has been broken off and lies on the ground near, is in a state of excellent preservation. The figure was evidently at first well shaped and is even now in such condition that it cannot be mistaken. It is situated in the bottom of a small, almost hidden cañon, and was discovered by the photographer Craycraft of Santa Fé, who took the photographs reproduced here. I have seen the animal from



THE PAINTED CAVE



CLIFFS CONTAINING CAVE-DWELLINGS

above the brink of the cañon, and, as far as I have been able to learn, am the only person in addition to the discoverer who has had a view of it in modern days.

Southwest of Puye, at the end of a Mesa and near the only trail that passes through the ridge, is a huge head some six feet

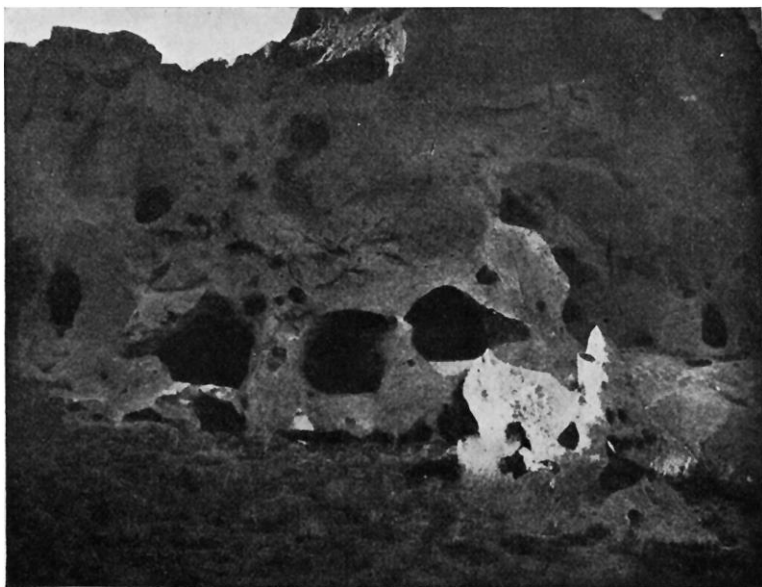


FIGURE 1. — A LARGE WHITE BEAR.

long and four feet wide with perfect eyes, nose, and mouth. I am not prepared to say, however, that this is not the work of time on the sandstone rather than the work of the cliff-dwellers. Situated as it is, however, surrounded by the homes of these people, it is an object of interest.

From the top of some of the Mesas many other honeycombed cliffs can be seen (PLATE IX). The openings almost without exception are toward the south, though among the first dwellings seen in the Las Alamos Cañon is a small group, situated very high and in an almost inaccessible place, with a northern exposure. Strange to say, the timber originally used for the doorway in one of these dwellings is in better condition than any I have seen in the dwellings with the exposure to the balmy south.

In the bottom of the Pajarito Cañon, quite a distance from the

large communal house of that name, is a circular pit sixty feet in diameter and at present at least ten feet deep. If this was a *kiva*, it is far larger than any others I have chanced upon.

Many of the cliff dwellings, sometimes called cavate dwellings, consist of a single room in the rock, although a large number have a room back of the original one. In the Las Alamos Cañon there are several rooms, some of them several feet from each other, which are connected by openings (Fig. 2). The first series of this kind seen by me was in the Frijoles Cañon, where I sent my Indian cook into one room to see if it would protect us during the night, which promised to be stormy, and in a few seconds his head appeared in another doorway several yards further down the cliff.

At the head of the Sena Cañon, in a small group of the cavate type, is a pillar of tufa some twenty feet long and ten feet thick, which rises several feet above the ledge on each side. In the centre of this, and two hundred feet from any other dwelling, is a cave. The owner evidently wished to enjoy his high and exclusive site to the fullest advantage, for he has cut a door on both the north and the south sides. This little peak standing alone with the hole in the centre, through which one can see to the other side, presents an unusual and strange appearance.

On the top of several of the commanding points are circular ruins of what were evidently watch towers. The watchers in the days gone past must have had a busy scene before them, while to-day one can sit on the ruins for days and never see a human being.

Above the Las Guaheas Cañon, and in a high semicircular ridge that rises from the Mesa and faces southeast, is a row of dwellings cut into much harder and darker colored rock than the thousands at other points. These dwellings also appear to differ slightly in shape and construction from the ordinary type.

Generally speaking, the more inaccessible the house, the more care was spent in its construction and decoration. It is, therefore, the case that one is often repaid for a special effort to reach some doorway, by finding things much better preserved than where access is easy. The approaches to certain ridges, back

of which were built the cliff dwellings, or to the top of some Mesa containing a communal house, were often well defended by walls, defiles in the rock, etc. These old paths are sometimes a number of feet deep, and so narrow that a full-grown man has difficulty in walking through without turning his

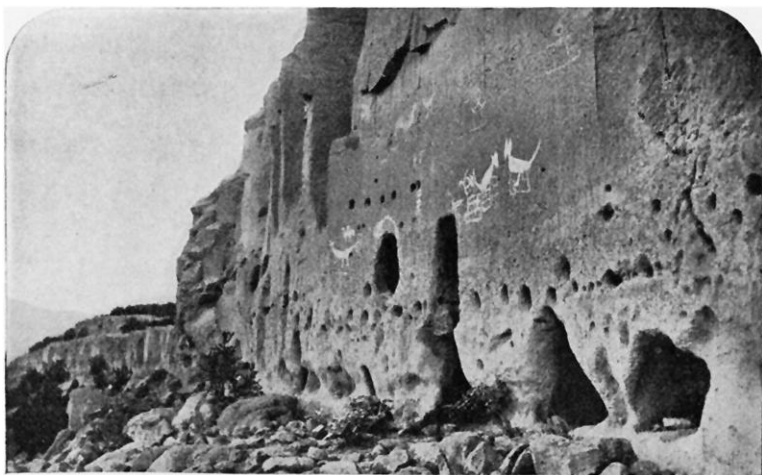


FIGURE 2. — DWELLING CONTAINING FIVE CONNECTED ROOMS.

shoulders sideways. They could, therefore, easily be defended against a foe. One of the best of these cut trails is seen at the main approach to Tsankawi Communal House.

At several points, mainly above the Garcia Cañon, communal houses were situated on adjacent Mesa tops with ridges between. Frequently in these cases a well-worn path in the rock several inches deep shows how often the inhabitants of one of the houses visited the others.

The *Navas*, or hunting traps, are numerous. These consist of deep wells cut in the solid rock, in the middle of some trail across a Mesa. The situation of the valleys and Mesas is such, and so many of the cañon walls are impassable, that it was an easy matter to drive the game across the selected trails. Deer and other animals naturally fell easy victims in these holes. The Pueblo Indians have used these traps in quite recent years.

On Laguna Mesa are the ruins of a house containing at least twenty rooms, and evidently only one story high. This is the

only ruin I have seen where every room can be seen plainly without excavation of any kind.

Some time since, while trailing a cougar, I chanced to find a small ledge back from what I, or any other passer in the Las Alamos Cañon below, or the Mesa above, should have thought a solid wall, and around the ledge were over half a dozen unusually large cliff rooms. These rooms were at least a mile from any others, although the Mesa above did show signs of ruins. This was evidently a select colony, possibly some summer resort of the élite of the tribe.

These are only a few of the many special points of interest. When one can see so many similar sights, and when there are so many easily accessible ruins of interest, it is hard to realize that they are visited annually by comparatively few persons. The number of visitors this year, however, will far exceed that of any previous year. Every tourist in the West should make a point of visiting Santa Fé, where the proper arrangements can be made for seeing these wonders of a departed people.

HUGH H. HARRIS.

U. S. FOREST SERVICE.